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### Newsletter - 1983-01-13

E. De la Garza

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# NEWSLETTER

98-380

January 13, 1983

Washington D C

## WELCOME TO THE NEW 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The 98th convening of Congress took place last week on January 3rd, and with it came the advent of a newly drawn 15th Congressional District. We must bid farewell to our friends in Cameron, Willacy, Kenedy and Kleberg counties, and extend our hearty welcome to the new county additions of Wilson, Atascosa, Karnes, Frio, La Salle, San Patricio, census tract 37 in Nueces (a/k/a Calallen), and districts 229, 230 and 231-B in Gonzalez (a/k/a Nixon). There are no other changes in our District.

The best way I can introduce myself to all our newcomers is to let you know that the 15th Congressional District's success is forged through the link between you and me. My relationship with constituents is the centerpiece of my Congressional activity. During my eighteen years in Congress representing the 15th District of Texas, I have corresponded with virtually every person who has written or called me from our South Texas area, and believe me there's still plenty of room in the file cabinets! Let me hear from you: the county and civic leaders, parents, students, farmers, ranchers, businessmen, all of you. Let us develop a working rapport. My Washington address is Congressman E (Kiki) de la Garza, 1401 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D C 20515.

For new 15th District residents who may not know, your Congressman is Chairman of the U S House of Representatives' Committee on Agriculture and I take a keen and serious attitude on issues and problems facing the farmer and rancher in my District. As well, my Washington staff members are all professionals, and after 18 years with me they have become expert in weaving their way through the federal loom! We can assist you with issues or problems involving a host of federal programs for counties and communities, social security, veterans' needs, and the like. You need only write to gain my ear.

In preparation for serving the new counties in our District, I have ordered yearly subscriptions to many newspapers in the area to become better acquainted with local events and issues. I look forward to reading the Nixon News, Karnes City Citation, Dilley Herald, Floresville Chronicle, Pleasanton Express and many others. And since our new 15th Congressional District will consist of several counties on the northern edge of the South Texas area, I have decided to open a second Congressional District office to better serve the needs of our new counties. As you know, my current District office is located in McAllen. The new office will be chosen after

**—KIKI DE LA GARZA, 15TH DISTRICT, TEXAS—**

the General Services Administration regional office in Ft Worth has advised me of their determination on a site which will best serve the greatest number of people in our new District.

Again, let me welcome all new residents of the 15th District and for all our longtime friends to whom we must say farewell--you are gone but never, never forgotten. God bless one and all. You now have two Congressmen!!

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NEW CONGRESS SWORN IN--TEXAS ADDS THREE TO OUR TOTAL. When the new Congress officially convened at Noon on January 3rd, your Congressman took the oath of office for the tenth time. Reflecting our State's increased stature, there were three more Texans taking the oath with me than had been the case two years ago. The three new additions to the Texas Congressional delegation are Michael A Andrews of the 25th District headquartered in Houston, Tommy J Vandergriff representing the 26th District out of Arlington, and Solomon P Ortiz representing the 27th District based in Corpus Christi. As you know, that District contains four counties from our old 15th Congressional District. These three newest members are Democrats.

In all, there are six freshman representatives in the Texas delegation. The other three freshmen (who are not from newly created Districts) are Ronald Coleman of the 16th District from El Paso, Harry S Bartlett from Dallas' 3rd District, and John W Bryant from Dallas' 5th District. Mr Bartlett from Dallas is the only Republican in the freshman class from Texas. Texas now has a total of 27 members in the House of Representatives. As I begin my tenth term of service, I rank fifth out of the 27 members in seniority. The swearing-in ceremony was festive, as always. There were mariachis playing music on the Capitol steps and many friends from South Texas made the trip to Washington for the event.

As many of you know, the start of the new Congress coincided with the moving of my Congressional office from room 1434 to room 1401 in the Longworth building. It was a beautiful example of organized chaos! New carpeting and paint were provided for this member who moved his office, and it has really made our additional 100 square feet of space look good! That's a lot of added space as things go on Capitol Hill! At one point, I thought I would have to submit my negotiations with the telephone company to the Supreme Court, but at last we have service and our number is still the same: 202/225-2531. Also, my seniority in the House enables me to keep our 12 foot by 7 foot storeroom--a luxury indeed!

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VISITORS LAST WEEK FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL SWEARING-IN CEREMONY. From Harlingen: Tony Gutierrez, County Commissioner, Sam Lozano, Mayor Pro Tem, David Allex, Chamber of Commerce President, Luis de la Rosa, Louis J DeLellis, Richard S Santellana, City Manager Gavino Sotello; & from Kingsville, Helen Sandroussi; former McAllen residents George Barbosa and Mr & Mrs Robert Cuellar, and current McAllen resident Hector Guerra.

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